

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**

Docket No. ETH1635

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Arindam Datta, et al.

Serial No.: 10/059,637

Art Unit: 3721

Filed: January 29, 2002

Examiner:

Title: BIODEGRADABLE STENT

RECEIVED
FEB 24 2004
Group 3700

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed
to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

August 27, 2003

(Date of Deposit)

William K. Wissing

(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

August 27, 2003

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

☐ In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application (other

than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, no additional fee is required.

☒ In accordance with §1.129(a), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in connection with ☐ the first or ☐ second After Final Submission, therefore:

☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached); or

☒ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ETH1635/WKW the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in §1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution and that it is accompanied by one of:

☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached); or

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ In accordance with §1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311 but before the payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. Included are: Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) as set forth below and the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

☐ Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith EXCEPT THAT:

☐ In view of the voluminous nature of references [list as appropriate], and the likelihood that these references are available to the Examiner, copies are not enclosed herewith.

☐ If any of the foregoing publications are not available to the Examiner, Applicant will endeavor to supply copies at the Examiner's request.

☐ Copies of only foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2). (The U.S. patents and each U.S. patent application publication listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are not enclosed because this U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003 or this international application has entered the national stage under 35 USC §371 after June 30, 2003 (see USPTO waiver of requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i)).

☒ Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO1449 were previously cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in one or more of prior Applications S/N 09/933,059, filed on August 20, 2001, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,537,739B2; S/N 09/470,619, filed on December 22, 1999, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,387,739B1; S/N 09/933,096, filed on August 20, 2001, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,423,092B2; S/N 10,256,942, filed on September 27, 2002, still pending; Attorney Docket No. ETH1685 CIP, filed on June 24, 2003, still pending; S/N 09/470,620, filed on December 22, 1999, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,494,908B1; S/N 09/851,257, filed on May 8, 2001, still pending; and S/N 10,196,845, filed on July 16, 2002, still pending. S/Nos. 09/933,059 and 09/933,096 are divisionals of S/N 09/470,619. S/N 10/256,942 is a continuation of S/N 09/933,059. Attorney Docket No. ETH1685 CIP is a continuation-in-part of S/N 10/256,942. S/N 09/851,257 is a continuation-in-part of S/N 09/470,620. S/N 10/196,845 is a divisional of 10/256,942.

☐ There are no listed references which are not in the English language.

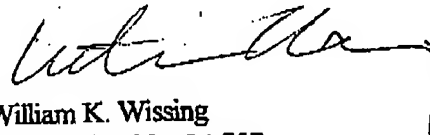
☐ The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows:

☐ Attached are copies of search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s), which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

☐ Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant, which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ETH1635/WKW. This form is submitted in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,



William K. Wissing
Registration No. 34,757
Attorney for Applicants

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-6201

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Application Number	10/059,637
Filing Date	January 29, 2002
First Named Inventor	Arindam Datta, et al.
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	ETH1635

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages
		Number	Kind			
		4,741,337		Smith, et al.	05/03/1988	
		4,889,119		Jamickowski, et al.	12/26/1989	
		5,059,211		Stack, et al.	10/22/1991	
		5,160,341	A	Brenneman, et al.	11/03/1992	
		5,185,406	A	Tang, et al.	02/09/1993	
		5,348,501	A	Regula, et al.	09/13/1994	
		5,443,458	A	Eury	08/22/1995	
		5,609,629*	A	Feamot, et al.	03/1997	
		5,626,611	A	Liu, et al.	05/06/1997	
		5,728,135	A	Bergen, et al.	03/17/1998	
		5,735,897*	A	Buirge	04/1998	
		5,769,883*	A	Buscemi, et al.	06/1998	
		5,792,400	A	Tajja, et al.	08/1998	
		5,968,092*	A	Buscemi, et al.	10/1999	
		6,117,168*	A	Yang, et al.	09/2000	
		6,251,136*	B1	Gurwalya, et al.	06/2001	
		6,319,264*	B1	Tormala, et al.	11/2001	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ²
		Office ³	Number ⁴	KindCode ⁵				
		EP	0 523 743	A1	European	01/20/1993		
		EP	0 604 022	A1	European	6/1994		
		EP	0 634 152	A1	European	01/18/1995		
		WO	90/04982	A1	PCT	05/17/1990		
		WO	97/41918	A1	PCT	05/17/1990		
		WO	98/56312*	A1	PCT	12/17/1998		
		WO	99/34750	A1	PCT	07/15/1999		
Examiner Signature						Date Considered		

* Cited by Examiner

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS, SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PTO/SB/08A (08-07)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0581-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2 of 2

Application Number	10/059,637
Filing Date	January 29, 2002
First Named Inventor	Arindam Datta, et al.
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	ETH1635

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		5,824,048	A	Ragheb, et al.	10/20/1998	
		5,873,904	A	Ragheb, et al.	02/23/1999	
		5,961,547	A	Razavi	10/05/1999	
		5,963,007	A	Toyozawa, et al.	10/05/1999	
		6,001,117	A	Huxal, et al.	12/14/1999	
		6,096,070	A	Ragheb, et al.	08/01/2000	
		6,120,847	A	Yang, et al.	09/19/2000	
		6,153,252	A	Hossainy, et al.	11/28/2000	
		6,156,373	A	Zhong, et al.	12/05/2000	
		6,258,121	B1	Yang, et al.	07/10/2001	
Examiner Signature				Date Considered		

* Cited by Examiner
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.
1 Unique citation designation number. 2 See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.
Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450